United Nations A/58/588

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 12

Report of the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council" and to allocate chapters I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX of the report of the Council[1] to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 21st, 22nd and 26th meetings, on 24 and 26 November and on 10 December 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.21, 22 and 26).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund (A/C.5/58/2 and Corr.1) and the relevant chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council.

II. Consideration of proposals

4. At its 22nd meeting, on 26 November, the Chairman introduced a draft decision entitled "Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund" (A/C.5/58/L.26).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/58/L.26 without a vote (see para. 8, draft decision I).

[1] A/58/3 (Parts I and II); for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/58/3/Rev.1).

03-65034 (E) 121203

6. At its 26th meeting, on 10 December 2003, the Committee considered the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that had been allocated to it.

7. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided, without objection, to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the chapters of the report of the Economic and Social Council that had been allocated to the Fifth Committee (see para. 8, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Delegation of formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund

The General Assembly, having considered the note by the Secretariat on the question,[2] decides that formal authority in matters of personnel of the United Nations Population Fund shall be delegated by the Secretary-General to the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund.

Draft decision II
Report of the Economic and Social Council

The General Assembly takes note of chapters I, VII (sects. B and C) and IX of the report of the Economic and Social Council.[1]

---

[2] A/C.5/58/2 and Corr.1.

United Nations A/58/589

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 165

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 28th plenary meeting, on 13 October 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 20th and 22nd meetings, on 21 and 26 November 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.20 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/58/539) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/591).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.25

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Ireland, coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia" (A/C.5/58/L.25).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.25 without a vote (see para. 6).

03-63127 (E) 031203

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Recalling Security Council resolution 1497 (2003) of 1 August 2003, by which the Council declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force to support the transitional government and to assist in the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement for Liberia,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Mission in Liberia for a period of twelve months,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in its resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolution of the Security Council,

1. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

2. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

3. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

4. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

[1] A/58/539.
[2] A/58/591.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to make efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

Budget estimates for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004

9. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a special account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the purpose of accounting for income received and expenditure incurred in respect of the Mission;

10. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia the amount of 564,494,300 United States dollars for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of the amount of 47,462,700 dollars previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for the operation of the Mission under the terms of section IV of General Assembly resolution 49/233 A of 23 December 1994, for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2003;

Financing of the appropriation

11. *Decides also* to apportion among Member States the amount of 450 million dollars at a monthly rate of 40,909,090 dollars, in accordance with the levels set out in resolution 55/235, as adjusted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 55/236 of 23 December 2000 and 57/290 A of 20 December 2002, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2003 and 2004, as set out in its resolutions 55/5 B of 23 December 2000, 57/4 B of 20 December 2002 and 58/__ of _____;[3]

12. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 11 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 5,210,000 dollars at a monthly rate of 473,636 dollars, representing the estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to pursue through collaboration between the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, and the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, opportunities for optimizing, where possible, the provision and management of support resources and service delivery to the three missions;

---

[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

14. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the utilization of the strategic deployment stocks to the Mission at the start-up stage;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Mission;

17. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

18. *Decides* to keep under review during its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia".

United Nations A/58/590

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 December 2003
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 166

Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Fouad **Rajeh** (Saudi Arabia)

I. Introduction

1. At its 28th plenary meeting, on 13 October 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 16th and 22nd meetings, on 5 and 26 November 2003. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/58/SR.16 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it a note by the Secretary-General on the admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/58/13) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/58/545).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.15

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Argentina, coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund" (A/C.5/58/L.15).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/58/L.15 without a vote (see para. 6).

03-63742 (E) 041203

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the admission of the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Decides to admit the International Criminal Court to membership in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, in accordance with article 3 of the Regulations of the Fund, with effect from 1 January 2004.

---

[1] A/C.5/58/13.

[2] A/58/545.

United Nations A/58/591

General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 November 2003

Original: English

Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 165
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Liberia for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed budget for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 (A/58/539). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Security Council, by its resolution 1497 (2003) of 1 August 2003, declared its readiness to establish a United Nations stabilization force in Liberia. By a letter dated 4 September 2003, the Advisory Committee authorized commitments in the amount of $47,462,700 gross ($46,892,500 net) to meet the cost of initial critical logistical and personnel requirements of the operation in Liberia for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2003.

3. By its resolution 1509 (2003) of 19 September 2003, the Security Council decided to establish UNMIL for a period of 12 months, consisting of 15,000 United Nations military personnel, including up to 250 military observers and 160 staff officers, and up to 1,115 civilian police officers. The cost estimates contained in the proposed budget are based on the mandate of the Mission, as set out in resolution 1509 (2003), and on the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on Liberia (S/2003/875).

4. The Advisory Committee takes note of table 1 of the proposed budget, in which the time line leading up to the completion of the budget estimates of the Mission is given. **The Committee commends the Secretariat for the speed with which it prepared the budget estimates for this large and complex mission, as well as the quality of the presentation.**

03-61210 (E) 141103

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that as from 1 October 2003, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2003/875, para. 114), the major functions performed by the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Liberia, which had been funded under the regular budget as a special political mission, had been transferred to UNMIL, together with the staff of the Office.

II. Proposed budget for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004

A. General comments

6. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the presentation of the budget estimates using results-based budgeting techniques and encourages further improvement, taking into account the views expressed by the Committee in its previous reports on peacekeeping operations (see, for example, A/57/772, paras. 37-56). In this connection, while the Committee recognizes the difficulties inherent in linking requests for resources to outputs and accomplishments, it reiterates its view that such a linkage is an essential element of the results-based budgeting concept (see para. 12 of the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] and A/57/772, para. 52) and requests the Secretariat to work towards that end.**

7. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/2003/875, paras. 53 and 100), that the Mission is to include a mechanism for coordinating its activities with those of the humanitarian and development community and that it will also work closely with the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (MINUCI) and the United Nations Office for West Africa, as well as the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General is to have overall authority for the activities of the Mission and the United Nations system in Liberia (ibid., para. 53). **The Committee requests that an effective mechanism be established for the discharge of this "overall authority". The Committee further requests that information in this regard be provided to it in the context of the next budget estimates.**

8. **The Advisory Committee also requests that in future budget estimates, the mechanisms for effective collaboration and coordination be more clearly identified.** For example, the Committee was provided with supplementary information estimating requirements for the disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation programme at $35,484,550. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that it was actually a much larger programme involving the whole United Nations system, and that the $35.5 million represented the amount to be funded from the assessed peacekeeping budget (see also para. 21 below). **The Committee expects that, for its consideration of the next budget estimates, it will be provided with full information on these and other requirements, including support to be provided by specialized agencies and other United Nations entities. Further, the Committee trusts that cooperation and collaboration between the Mission and the relevant United Nations entities will be pursued at all substantive levels (see also para. 16 below).**

9. **The Advisory Committee trusts that the mandated close cooperation between UNMIL, UNAMSIL and MINUCI would lead to efficiencies that could result in savings.**

10. Under the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 18 August 2003, elections are to be held in October 2005. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the time frame for the completion of the mandate of UNMIL was expected to be within three years.

B. Resource requirements

11. Resource requirements for UNMIL for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 are estimated at $564,614,300, including budgeted voluntary contributions in kind totalling $120,000. Of the estimated requirements, $9,688,300 represents expenditures incurred by UNMIL for the period from 1 August to 30 September 2003, and $554,926,000 covers estimated requirements for the period from 1 October 2003 to 30 June 2004 (see A/58/539, sect. II.A). The budget provides for the phased deployment of 14,785 military contingent personnel, 215 military observers, 1,115 civilian police officers, including 360 formed police personnel, 607 international staff, 768 national staff and 286 United Nations Volunteers.

1. Military and police personnel

12. The estimate of $200,287,300 under military and police personnel is based on a phased deployment schedule, which provides for full deployment of 14,785 military contingent personnel, 215 military observers and 1,115 civilian police officers by 31 March 2004, and takes into account a delayed deployment rate of 35 per cent for all such personnel. **In the experience of the Advisory Committee, deployment schedules such as the one proposed for UNMIL often prove to be overly optimistic.** It is the understanding of the Committee that once troop-contributing countries have been identified, a lack of complete readiness on the part of those countries to deploy troops can often be a cause for delay. Delays can also be attributed to slowness on the part of the United Nations in the provision of logistical support.

13. The Advisory Committee was informed that the unit cost of rations for UNMIL was $6.40 per day. The Committee enquired as to why the cost was higher for UNMIL than for UNAMSIL, where it was budgeted at $5.75 per day, even though the same contractor was being used for both missions. The Committee was informed that UNMIL as yet had no contract for rations, and that they were being provided by the UNAMSIL contractor until an international bidding process could be undertaken. **The Committee therefore expects that savings will be realized under this item.**

2. Civilian personnel

14. The estimated requirements for civilian personnel for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004, which provide for a total of 1,661 staff (607 international staff, 768 national staff and 286 United Nations Volunteers), amount to $51,655,300 (see ibid., sects. II.A and B). The Advisory Committee notes that requirements have been adjusted by vacancy factors of 50 per cent for international staff and 30 per

cent in respect of national staff and United Nations Volunteers (ibid., paras. 134-136). The Committee further notes that the New York standard salary scale was applied to 70 per cent of proposed international staff. Staff costs for the remaining 30 per cent are based on salary scales for appointments of limited duration, with a 50 per cent reduction factored in with respect to common staff costs.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed organizational structure of UNMIL, much like that proposed for the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), consists of numerous small sections and units with chiefs at the P-4 and P-5 levels, sometimes with very few staff for them to supervise. **The Committee reiterates its view that this tends to inflate the grade structure and can lead to duplication of functions.**

16. The Advisory Committee also notes a tendency in UNMIL to respond to aspects of the Security Council mandate by either creating separate units within the Mission to deal with them or translating the mandate into requests for staff and consultancy resources. For example, in paragraph 3 (r) of its resolution 1509 (2003), the Council decided that the mandate of the Mission should include assisting the transitional government in restoring the proper administration of natural resources, hence the requirement for two advisers on environment and natural resources (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) and two professional environment/resources officers (National Officers) mentioned in paragraph 66 of the proposed budget. **The Committee is of the view that the Mission should draw upon the expertise of other concerned United Nations entities and involve them in a coordinated approach to implementing the mandate rather than automatically translating every aspect of the Security Council mandate into requests for staff and consultancy resources.**

17. **The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the organizational structure of the Mission with a view to streamlining it, taking into account the views of the Committee as expressed in the present report (see also the report of the Committee on MONUC, where a similar situation exists (A/58/447, paras. 30-37)). The results of that review should be reported in the next budget submission for UNMIL.**

18. **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of the functions to be undertaken by the Legal and Judicial System Support Division, as outlined in the proposed budget (see A/58/539, paras. 48-53) and in the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council (S/2003/875, paras. 71-74). The Committee requests that a summary of the Mission's programme of work in this area be provided in the next budget submission.**

19. With elections planned for October 2005 in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, a small Electoral Unit consisting of four staff (1 P-5, 1 General Service and 2 United Nations Volunteers) is proposed for UNMIL (see A/58/539, para. 63). **While the Advisory Committee understands that the Mission intends to expand the Unit in the next budget period as elections draw nearer, it emphasizes that planning for the elections should be done well in advance.** Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Mission intended to employ 150 United Nations Volunteers to assist in the electoral process.

20. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the establishment of a Programme Planning and Assessment Unit in UNMIL in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Humanitarian Coordination,**

Rehabilitation, Recovery and Reconstruction to assist other components in planning, monitoring and evaluating programmes and projects (ibid., para. 67). The Committee recommends that the functions of the Unit be expanded to cover the entire Mission, rather than limiting them to programmes and projects under the Deputy Special Representative.

21. The Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of the requirements for the disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme, which amount to $35,484,550. Of that amount, $15,650,000 is related to rations. The Committee was informed that those costs could be reduced if the World Food Programme became involved in the programme. In this connection, the Committee recalls the statement made by the Secretary-General in his report to the Security Council that it was imperative that not only disarmament and demobilization, but also the initial phases of reintegration, be funded from the assessed peacekeeping budget (S/2003/875, para. 111).

3. Operational requirements

22. The overall estimate for operational costs for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 amounts to $312,551,700 (see A/58/539, sect. II.A).

23. The largest requirement under operational costs, accounting for $107,380,100, is for facilities and infrastructure. The Advisory Committee notes that delayed deployment factors have been taken into account in the estimated requirement for equipment (see A/58/539, para. 140). **The Committee requests that in future it be provided with a "deployment" schedule for all requirements under this heading that would give a clear picture of the time frame for procurement and logistical activities.**

24. The estimated requirements under air transportation amount to $65,428,000. As indicated in the proposed budget, the Mission is planning to maintain a fleet of 28 helicopters and 3 fixed-wing aircraft (ibid., para. 143). **As it has done in the case of other missions, the Advisory Committee requests UNMIL to explore the possibility of using aircraft already at the disposal of the United Nations, including MONUC aircraft, to transport troops that come from the region, rather than incurring further expense for additional aircraft.** The Committee notes that the proposed Mission air fleet includes a Beechcraft 200 to provide for movement of the head of Mission for liaison and negotiation purposes throughout the subregion and that the aircraft can be reconfigured to support medical evacuations. **The Committee welcomes this and requests that, should additional aircraft be deployed, care be taken to ensure that such aircraft are versatile.**

25. The Advisory Committee was provided with a breakdown of travel costs for both training and non-training purposes, amounting to $600,000 and $800,253 respectively. **With regard to non-training travel, the Committee encourages the Mission to make use of videoconferencing facilities where possible and to reduce the number of staff travelling to the same meeting. In order to reduce the cost of training-related travel, the Mission should attempt to identify training opportunities that are as close as possible to Mission headquarters.**

III. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

26. The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNMIL for the period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004 is indicated in paragraph 152 of the proposed budget. **In view of its comments in the present report, the Advisory Committee recommends appropriation of an amount of $564,494,300 gross ($559,284,300 net) for the operation of the Mission for the 11-month period from 1 August 2003 to 30 June 2004, inclusive of the amount of $47,462,700 previously authorized by the Committee for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2003. The Committee further recommends that the total amount assessed for the period at this time not exceed $450 million. That amount should provide ample resources to cover military and police personnel costs should the deployment schedule as outlined in the proposed budget be fully implemented (see para. 12 above). The Committee will review the situation when it examines the estimates for the 2004/05 period.**

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/56/7).